



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office  
P.O. Box 1828  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:

**OCT 28 1999**

1793 (930)  
Pinedale Anticline

Dear Reviewer:

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed *Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project* is submitted for your review and comment. This DEIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts from the exploration and development of natural gas wells and associated access roads, pipelines, and production facilities proposed by several companies within the proposed project area located in Sublette County, Wyoming. A Technical Report Document has also been prepared in conjunction with the DEIS. It contains detailed technical information regarding air quality modeling, wildlife habitat modeling, cultural resources, and surface restrictions for potential well pad locations. A limited number of the technical report documents are available upon request or they may be reviewed at the BLM offices listed below.

The Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA) includes 197,345 acres with surface ownership at approximately 80 percent Federal, 15 percent private, and 5 percent State. A small infrastructure of roads and pipelines for natural gas production are already in place within the PAPA. Over the next 10 to 15 years, the project proponents propose to develop the natural gas resource by drilling up to 900 new wells to achieve 700 producing locations to attain maximum recovery of natural gas from existing Federal, State, and private oil and gas leases. Additional roads and pipelines would be necessary to link the wells with existing transportation systems.

If you wish to submit comments on the DEIS, we request that you make them as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decisionmaking process.

A formal public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on January 12, 2000, at the Pinedale High School Auditorium, 101 E. Hennick, Pinedale, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing will be to afford the public the opportunity to verbalize their comments on the proposed natural gas exploration and development DEIS.

This DEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and other regulations and statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts which could result from the project and to solicit public comments and concerns. This DEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public of the impacts associated with implementing the companies' drilling proposal and to evaluate alternatives to the proposal. This DEIS is also intended to provide information to other regulatory agencies for use in their decisionmaking process for other permits required for implementation of the project.

Comments, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be made available for review by the public at the addresses listed below during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will be published as part of the Final EIS. However, individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or street address from

public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

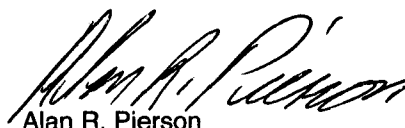
Please retain this copy of the DEIS for future reference as the Final EIS may be published in abbreviated format. A copy of the DEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, and local Government agencies and to those persons who responded by returning the post cards to BLM which indicated that they wished to receive a copy of the DEIS. Copies of the DEIS are available for public inspection at the following BLM office locations:

Bureau of Land Management  
Wyoming State Office  
2515 Warren Avenue  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Bureau of Land Management  
Rock Springs Field Office  
Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Bureau of Land Management  
Pinedale Field Office  
432 East Mill Street  
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Sincerely,



Alan R. Pierson  
State Director